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Attorneys for Kyle Everett,  
Chapter 7 Trustee

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

In re

BENJA INCORPORATED,

Debtor.

Case No. 20-30819-DM

Chapter 7

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL J.  
COFFINO IN SUPPORT OF  
APPLICATION FOR ORDER  
AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF  
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR**

I, Michael J. Coffino, declare:

1. I have been a licensed private investigator since 2018 and my private investigation firm is Coffino Investigations (the "PI Firm"). The PI Firm is a one-person operation with me as the sole principal. Its website, which highlights some of its services and experience, is [www.coffinoinvestigations.com](http://www.coffinoinvestigations.com).

2. In addition to my experience as a private investigator, I am licensed to practice law in California and have more than four decades of experience as a business litigation and trial attorney. I have first chaired more than twenty trials and arbitrations and have deposed, interviewed, and examined at trial countless witnesses. I was previously head of bankruptcy litigation at Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe LLP. I still practice law part-time and am Of Counsel for the

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1 bankruptcy boutique law firm, Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP. Despite my extensive experience and  
2 training as an attorney, the PI Firm would only provide private investigation services to the estate.

3         3.         Subject to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code; the Bankruptcy Rules; the  
4 *Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Trustees* dated  
5 February 19, 2014 (the “Guidelines”); and the rules and rulings of this Court, I am informed and  
6 believe that the Trustee proposes to pay the PI Firm its customary hourly rates in effect from  
7 time to time and to reimburse the PI Firm for its expenses according to its customary  
8 reimbursement policies. My current hourly rate for private investigation work is \$150. I  
9 acknowledge that compensation and reimbursement of expenses to the PI Firm are subject to  
10 Court approval, upon appropriate notice, and shall comply with orders of this Court, the  
11 Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, Bankruptcy Local Rules, and applicable Guidelines.  
12 The PI Firm has not shared or agreed to share compensation with any entity.

13         4.         I have reviewed the Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs of the Debtor,  
14 as well as the current and former clients of the PI Firm and have done a conflicts check, as has  
15 Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP, and believe the PI Firm does not represent any interest adverse to  
16 the Debtor or its estate. Nor does the PI Firm hold any interest materially adverse to the interests  
17 of the Debtor or its estate. After diligent inquiry, I believe that the PI Firm is a “disinterested  
18 person” as such term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as modified by  
19 section 1107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code

20         5.         Except as explained below, after diligent inquiry I believe neither the PI Firm, nor  
21 I, have any connection with the Debtor, any creditors of the estate, any party in interest, their  
22 attorneys or accountants, any judge of this Court, the United States Trustee, or any person  
23 employed in the office of the United States Trustee. It is possible that my colleague at Keller  
24 Benvenuti Kim LLP, Peter J. Benvenuti, may serve as a mediator in the adversary proceeding  
25 *Everett v. MHC Financial Services, Inc.*, 21-3036-DM (the “MHC Adversary Proceeding”). I  
26 am informed and believe that the MHC Adversary Proceeding and the claims it raises are  
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1 unrelated to the PI work the corresponding PI Firm employment application and this declaration  
2 contemplate.

3 I declare under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and with respect to  
4 those matters stated on information and belief, I believe them to be true. This declaration was  
5 executed in Bridgehampton, New York on September 23, 2022 .

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Michael J. Coffino  
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